

**Bescheid/Protokoll (Anlage)****Communication/Minutes (Annex)****Notification/Procès-verbal (Annexe)**

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Anmelde-Nr.:
Application No.: 99 959 929.3
Demande n°:

The examination is being carried out on the following application documents:

Text for the Contracting States:

AT BE CH LI CY DE DK ES FI FR GB GR IE IT LU MC NL PT SE

Description, pages:

1-89 as originally filed

Claims, No.:

1-10 as originally filed

1. The following documents are considered relevant

- ✓ D1: 'Cyclic Nucleotide Phosphodiesterase Inhibition by Imidazopyridines: Analogues of Sulnazole and Isomazole as Inhibitors of the cGMP Specific Phosphodiesterase', 'COATES W.J. ET AL.', 'J. MED. CHEM.', "36/10/00-00-1993,1387-1392,
- ✓ D2: WO-A1-9900359
- D3: EP-A-1 000 932

D3 is the EP family member of D2 and is considered as a translation of D2.

2. The PCT application D2 published on 7.01.1999 was filed on 26.06.1998, i. e. before the priority dates of the present application. It has been supplied to the European Patent Office in one of its official languages and the national fee provided for in Article 22, paragraph 1 or Article 39, paragraph 1 of the Co-operation Treaty has been paid. The requirements of Article 158(2) EPC are thus fulfilled.

Its content as filed is therefore considered as comprised in the state of the art relevant to the question of novelty, pursuant to Article 54(3) and (4) EPC, as far as the same contracting states are designated.

For parts of the application not disclosed in the earlier priority document (JP-A-10-367362) D2 is considered state of the art according to Art. 54(2) EPC. This holds for